

all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks in the RECORD on H.R. 3542.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill, introduced by my colleague and ranking member Mr. LUNGREN of California, would commemorate each State's admission to the Union. The bill directs the Architect of the Capitol to fly each State's flag annually on the anniversary date of the State's admission to the Union over the Capitol, beginning with the first State admitted, the State of Delaware.

During markup, the committee by voice vote adopted a perfecting amendment that I offered so that the committee may issue a regulation to provide recognition of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands by flying the flag of each of these jurisdictions over the Capitol annually on the appropriate date. This amended bill passed through committee by unanimous vote voice and was reported favorably.

I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARPER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Today I rise in support of this bill, commemorating each of the unique States in our Union. This bill directs the Architect of the Capitol to fly the flag of a State over the Capitol each year on the anniversary of that State's admission into the Union. Madam Speaker, the United States of America truly lives up to the motto found on our Great Seal, "e pluribus unum"—out of many, one.

We are a people of many backgrounds, of many ethnicities, and of many characteristics. We are spread out over 50 unique, diverse, and special entities we call States. States allow us to organize ourselves and also give us identities that relate to our geographic and cultural tendencies. Communal bonds are formed over time through just such means. We now have 50 States in this wonderful Union. The first, Delaware, was admitted as a State on December 7, 1787. The last, Hawaii, was admitted August 21, 1959. There were 16 States admitted in the 18th century, 29 States in the 19th century, and five were admitted in the 20th century.

Each flag tells a unique story of its State's history, culture, and inhabitants, which is why my colleague, Representative LUNGREN, the author of this legislation who was unfortunately unable to be here this afternoon, thought we should honor our States in this special way, enumerated in this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARPER. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Mississippi. I thank him for his participation on the committee, and I thank the ranking member, Mr. LUNGREN, for his participation in the committee on this bill. I urge a "yes" vote on this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3542, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT ACT OF 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3509) to reauthorize State agricultural mediation programs under title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3509

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Agricultural Credit Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5106) is amended by striking "2010" and inserting "2015".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill H.R. 3509.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3509, the Agricultural Credit Act of 2009. This bill would reauthorize funding for the State agricultural mediation grant program, which operates under title V

of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987. The grant program for the agricultural mediation program was established more than 20 years ago to respond to the agricultural crisis of the 1980s. Mediation helped agricultural producers, their creditors, and USDA agencies address disputes through a confidential and nonadversarial process that takes place outside the traditional legal system of foreclosure, appeals or litigation. This bypasses a lot of the bureaucratic red tape that usually comes with resolving these conflicts, saving taxpayers money in the process.

Earlier in the month, the House Agriculture Committee approved this bipartisan legislation by unanimous voice vote. I urge my colleagues to support the extension of this successful initiative.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3509, the Agricultural Credit Act of 2009. I'm an original cosponsor of this bill, and I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for this legislation to reauthorize the State agricultural mediation program. The State mediation program provides our farmers and ranchers with a voluntary and low-cost service to mediate disputes that may arise between their creditors and themselves and to address adverse decisions with the USDA. The State programs do this in a confidential and nonadversarial setting outside of the traditional legal process of foreclosure, bankruptcy, appeals, and litigation.

Like most of the country, the agricultural sector is currently experiencing increased financial stress, which has created a greater need for the services of the agricultural mediator program. The Agriculture Committee favorably considered this bill with no opposition, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in supporting the continuation of the USDA agricultural mediation program.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for carrying this legislation. I think it's good bipartisan legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3509.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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FLORIDA NATIONAL FOREST LAND
ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3954) to release Federal reversionary interests retained on certain lands acquired in the State of Florida under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, to authorize the interchange of National Forest System land and State land in Florida, to authorize an additional conveyance under the Florida National Forest Land Management Act of 2003, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3954

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Florida National Forest Land Adjustment Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. RELEASE OF DEED RESTRICTIONS ON
CERTAIN LANDS ACQUIRED UNDER
THE BANKHEAD-JONES FARM TENANT
ACT IN FLORIDA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Certain lands in the State of Florida were conveyed by the United States to the State under the authority of section 32(c) of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)), and now are part of the Blackwater River and Withlacoochee State Forests.

(2) The lands were conveyed to the State subject to deed restrictions that the lands could be only used for public purposes.

(3) The deed restrictions impede the ability of the State to remedy boundary and encroachment problems involving the lands.

(4) The release of the deed restrictions by the Secretary of Agriculture (hereafter referred to as the “Secretary”) will further the purposes for which the lands are being managed as State forests and will alleviate future Federal responsibilities with respect to the lands.

(b) RELEASE REQUIRED.—Subject to valid existing rights, and such reservations as the Secretary considers to be in the public interest, the Secretary shall release, convey, and quitclaim to the State of Florida, without monetary consideration, all rights, title, and remaining interest of the United States in and to those lands within or adjacent to the Blackwater River and Withlacoochee State Forests that were conveyed to the State under the authority of section 32(c) of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)) or under any other law authorizing conveyance subject to restrictions or reversionary interests retained by the United States.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyances authorized by subsection (b) are subject to the following terms and conditions.

(1) The State shall cover or reimburse the Secretary for reasonable costs incurred by the Secretary to make the conveyances, including title searches, surveys, deed preparation, attorneys’ fees, and similar expenses. The Secretary may not seek reimbursement for administrative overhead costs.

(2) By accepting the conveyances authorized by this section, the State agrees—

(A) that all net proceeds from any sale, exchange, or other disposition of the real property subject to deed restrictions shall be used by the State for the acquisition of lands or interests in lands within or adjacent to units of the state forest and park systems;

(B) to affirmatively address and resolve boundary encroachments in accordance with State law for the affected State forests; and

(C) to indemnify and hold the United States harmless with regard to any boundary disputes related to any parcel released under this section.

SEC. 3. INTERCHANGE INVOLVING NATIONAL
FOREST SYSTEM LAND AND STATE
LAND IN FLORIDA.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) There are intermingled Federal and State lands within units of the National Forest System in Florida that are of comparable quantity and quality and of approximately equal value.

(2) Interchanging these lands would be in the public interest by facilitating more efficient public land management.

(b) APPROXIMATELY EQUAL VALUE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “approximately equal value” means a comparative estimate of the value between lands to be interchanged, regarding which, without the necessity of an appraisal, the elements of value, such as physical characteristics and other amenities, are readily apparent and substantially similar.

(c) LAND INTERCHANGE AUTHORIZED.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, if the State of Florida offers to convey to the United States those State lands designated for interchange on the two maps entitled “State of Florida—U.S. Forest Service Interchange—January, 2009” and title to such lands is otherwise acceptable to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary shall convey and quitclaim to the State those National Forest System lands in the Ocala National Forest and the Apalachicola National Forest designated for interchange on the maps.

(2) MAPS.—The maps referenced in paragraph (1) shall be available for public inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service and in the office of the Supervisor of the National Forests in Florida for a period of at least five years after completion of the land interchanges authorized by this section.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Any land interchange under this section shall be subject to such reservations and rights-of-way as may be mutually acceptable to the Secretary and the authorized officer of the State.

(e) REPLACEMENT LAND.—In the event that any of the designated lands are in whole or part found to be unacceptable for interchange under this section due to title deficiencies, survey problems, the existence of hazardous materials, or for any other reason, the Secretary and the authorized officer of the State may substitute or modify the lands to be interchanged insofar as it is mutually agreed that the lands are of comparable quality and approximately equal value.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL LAND DISPOSAL UNDER
FLORIDA NATIONAL FOREST LAND
MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2003.

(a) DISPOSAL AUTHORIZED.—In accordance with the provisions of the Florida National Forest Land Management Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-152; 117 Stat. 1919), the Secretary of Agriculture may convey, by means of sale or exchange, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of land comprising approximately 114 acres, located within Township 1 South, Range 1 West, section 25, Leon County, Florida, and designated as tract W-1979.

(b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—

(1) TRACT W-1979.—The Secretary shall use the proceeds derived from any sale of tract W-1979, as authorized by subsection (a), only—

(A) to acquire lands and interests in land for inclusion in the Apalachicola National Forest; and

(B) to cover the disposal costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the sale of such tract.

(2) CERTAIN OTHER TRACTS.—With respect to tract A-943, tract A-944, and tract C-2210, as described in paragraphs (5), (6), and (16) of subsection (b) of section 3 of the Florida National Forest Land Management Act of 2003 and authorized for sale by subsection (a) of such section, being lands having permanent improvements and infrastructure, the Secretary may use the net proceeds derived from any sale of such tracts to acquire, construct, or maintain administrative improvements for units of the National Forest System in Florida.

SEC. 5. REQUIRED DESIGNATION IN PAYGO ACTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-39; 124 Stat. 8), shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this bill, H.R. 3954.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3954, the Florida National Forest Land Adjustment Act. This bill would authorize the conveyance of 114 acres in Leon County, Florida, that would allow the U.S. Forestry to make equivalent land exchange within the Ocala and the Apalachicola National Forests to better and more efficiently manage the land. The bill would also clarify some boundary issues by allowing a survey to be conducted on certain areas of Florida State forest land.

This bill has the support of the Democratic and Republican members of the Florida delegation; I state, members of the Florida delegation, bipartisan, as well as the U.S. Forestry. The Congressional Budget Office has indicated that this bill has no significant impact on the Federal budget; and it was passed by the House Agriculture Committee by a voice vote earlier. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3954, a bill to address several public land issues in the great State of Florida. This legislation helps resolve